

Fort Wayne/Allen County Regional Air Quality Steering Committee

Meeting summary

Monday, November 9, 1998

Council Committee Room, City-County Building, Fort Wayne, Indiana

I. Welcome and Introductions

Jean Beauchamp, IDEM, provided opening comments and asked meeting participants to introduce themselves. The handouts were identified. Approximately 25 people participated in the meeting. Mike Brooks provided information to the group about the draft integrated urban air toxics strategy. The draft strategy outlines actions to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants. It also lists categories of small sources that emit air toxics and could be subject to emission standards. The IDEM update included information about the neighborhood toxics monitoring to begin in January in Lake, Elkhart, Marion and Vanderburgh counties. These counties were selected because they have large populations and high levels of toxic pollution.

II Discussion of Final NO_x SIP Call Rule

The brief discussion centered around the schedule for state rulemaking which is; a draft by February, preliminary adoption in June, and a final rule in September 1999. Establishing a workgroup to provide input from the public in the rulemaking process is planned to start in December. It is anticipated that this workgroup will meet in different areas of the state.

EPA is looking at the 15 states that were part of the Ozone Transport Assessment Group (OTAG) but were not included in the nitrogen oxides state implementation plan (NO_x SIP) call. EPA may include some of those in the future. Time lines are short for submitting the state's NO_x SIP by September 1999. Region V then has 2 months to review. The federal implementation plan (FIP) will become effective if a state does not submit a plan. It is important to work with EPA while developing the SIP. EPA has proposed to agree with the technical merit of the 126 petitions but will not go final until 1999. The 126 petitions are petitions submitted by the Northeastern states to EPA claiming that NO_x coming from the upwind states, including the Midwest, contribute to their nonattainment. EPA's proposed remedy for these interstate petitions is the NO_x SIP call. USEPA responded to the concern that 2003 was too soon to require this level of utility and industrial controls, by establishing a pool of emission credits that states can distribute either to units that make early reductions or that cannot meet the required deadline. Indiana was allotted just under 20,000 tons per year. These credits are good until 2004.

III. Discussion of Mobile Sources Related Control Measures

Ann McCabe, Senior Coordinator, Corporate Studies, Amoco Petroleum Products, presented information about reformulated and lower Reid vapor pressure gasolines (RFG and LRVP) and an interesting discussion resulted. The main problems to implementing one of the gasolines as a control measure are:

! Distribution. There are a limited number of storage tanks and underground transport pipes can not transport too many kinds of gasoline.

! EPA approval. The Clean Air Act reserves to EPA the authority to regulate the use of special gasolines for control of air pollutants. States can provide for special gasoline only under certain circumstances and with EPA approval.

! Cost. The cost of a gallon of RFG or LRVP gasoline is higher than conventional gasolines.

! One or the other but not both. The distribution system could not handle both kinds of gasoline.

! Mandatory or voluntary. A voluntary use of one of these gasolines would require more storage tanks than the service stations currently have.

! Statewide versus county by county. Delivery of these gasolines would be easier if they were used statewide rather than in pockets of counties.

IV. Discussion of Outreach Needs

The discussion continued from the previous meeting concerning implementing an ozone awareness/ozone action day program in Allen County. The discussion began by attempting to establish three subcommittees for finance, management/administration, and media strategy. Amy Morris, IDEM, provided information about grants that may be available for this kind of program. Some thought that IDEM should manage the program since ozone is a regional problem. Ronnie Greenberg, Director of the American Lung Association (ALA), agreed to administer the program if IDEM could provide seed money or staff to get the program started. The American Lung Association represents 17 counties. Eli Samaan, NIRCC, agreed to help write grant proposals. Amy Gibson, Chamber of Commerce, agreed to host a meeting of Chamber representatives from the surrounding counties to build support for the project. An organizational meeting will be held at the ALA office on November 30, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will focus on defining goals for the program and devising a workplan.

Open Discussion

IDEM had committed to looking at the inventory of emission sources to determine which category of potential control measures contained industry sources in the Allen County area. This discussion will continue at the next meeting on December 7, 1998. Some people voiced their concerns about permitting new sources in the area while asking people not to drive their cars on hot, sunny days.